

Georgia Southern University

Digital Commons@Georgia Southern

Athletics News

Athletics

10-16-2018

MBB Season Preview: Quan Jackson Ready to Take the Next Step

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/athletics-news-online>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

This article is brought to you for free and open access by the Athletics at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in Athletics News by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University Athletics



MBB Season Preview: Quan Jackson Ready to Take the Next Step

The redshirt sophomore has become one of the Eagles' most versatile and valuable pieces.

Marc Gignac

Men's Basketball

Posted: 10/16/2018 11:23:00 AM

STATESBORO – Every championship caliber team needs a glue guy, a player who is willing to do whatever the team needs to win and relishes the big moment.

Georgia Southern's glue guy last year was [Quan Jackson](#).

The redshirt sophomore kind of eased into the season after redshirting the 2016-17 campaign, but when opportunity knocked, he broke down the door.

He played less than 18 minutes in the first eight contests, but an injury to [Ike Smith](#) paved the way for increased minutes. Jackson gobbled up those minutes and played so well, he made himself indispensable.

He tallied eight points, five rebounds and two steals in 26 minutes in the win over Savannah State and earned his first start at George Mason. In the first of a six-game road trip, the fearless wing promptly led the Eagles to a convincing 74-51 win after posting 16 points, three rebounds and two steals and backed it up with 11 points and five rebounds at CSU Bakersfield.

Jackson's contributions allowed the coaching staff to ease Smith back into the starting lineup when GS began conference play in late December. When it was all said and done, Jackson ranked seventh in the Sun Belt with 1.5 steals per game and averaged 7.1 points and 3.2 rebounds per contest.

"I did what my team needed me to do to help win games, and this year is going to be the same," he said.

It was a solid first year for the Florida native, but Jackson, his teammates and head coach [Mark Byington](#) know he is only scratching the surface.

"Quan took huge steps forward last year, and there were times in the year when I thought he was one of the two or three top players on the team," said Byington. "I think he has the potential to be an all-league player, and he should be one of our best defensive players. He is going to have a big role on the team, and I expect a big year from him."

Jackson knows that in order to take the next step, improving his shot is the key. He shot 42 percent from the floor, 34 percent from 3-point range and 53 percent from the free-throw line and has spent most of his time in the offseason shooting.

"When I first got here, I was pretty much a driver, but I wanted to expand my game so I worked on shooting," Jackson said. "Now, I feel like I'm a more well-rounded player. I can shoot, defend and drive, and do a little bit of everything. My shot has been feeling good, and I have been getting high-percentage shots in practice. Hopefully, that leads into the games."

As for the 2018-19 edition of Eagle basketball, Jackson is excited that everybody is healthy and likes what he has seen from the newcomers.

"We have a good team, we just have to continue to work hard and have confidence in ourselves," he said. "I think we are a lot better than last year because we're healthy and because of the newcomers we have, and I think we can do something special this year."

Georgia Southern reached 20 wins for the second time in four years in 2017-18, posting a 21-12 mark, and joined Louisiana and UTA as the only three Sun Belt schools to notch double-digit conference wins in each of the last four seasons. The Eagles return three starters and five lettermen to the 2018-19 team and open the campaign with a home exhibition contest against Charleston Southern in Hanner Fieldhouse Oct. 30.

Georgia Southern annually offers one of the best values in the Sun Belt for men's basketball season tickets and this year is no different. Season tickets in the lower reserved sections (F-J) are \$175 and sell out quickly while season tickets in the upper reserved sections (7-12) are \$140. General admission season tickets are \$100 and courtside seats are \$450 each (minimum \$1,200 Eagle Fund donation required to purchase courtside seats).

Fans who purchase a men's season tickets will have a women's season ticket included for no additional charge.

Copyright ©2021 Georgia Southern University Athletics